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the rock-cut tombs, the tents, the camels, the Bedouins with their long guns, the lateen sails upon the river, and the mountains in the hazy distance.

"I shall be pardoned if I next submit a brief companion picture of the prominent species to be met with in June at such a lake as the Faioum (Birket-el-Korn). First, the little long-tailed African cormorant goes by with straight, undeviating flight, like one who knows what place he wants to go to and is going there, leaving behind him the wanton terns, who have no object in life but lightly to sport over the water as they watch for their finny prey, assured that the warm sun will take care to incubate their eggs. In noisy conclave the buff-backed herons trim their nests, and the shyer squacco is uneasy at any disturbance the meaning of which he does not understand, while the cautious egret takes his stick away again, wisely jealous of revealing the whereabouts of his yet unfinished edifice. The Dalmatian pelican swims away with all sail set, or flaps and glides and flaps and glides over the water, his huge form mirrored on the surface, startling the basking fish, which hurry from the presence of their enemy. Marbled ducks in pairs rise from among the sedges; agile grebes put their trust in diving; the tall reeds quiver as the green-backed porphyrio seeks their friendly shelter; the reed warbler sounds a loud alarm. All fly to the nearest cover and in those thick beds they find a secure haven."

BOUCARD'S CATALOGUE OF BIRDS.<sup>1</sup>—This useful list gives the names and localities of all known living birds, numbering 11,030 species in 2456 genera, though in the author's opinion "many of these genera and species must be eventually abolished." The subgenera are placed as genera, and M. Boucard believes that it does harm to ornithological science "to multiply the genera and the subgenera, as it has been the practice to do lately." The classification followed is a new one, beginning with the *Struthionæ*, the lowest living forms, and ending with the humming-birds, which the author regards as the most recent and probably the most perfectly organized birds. Four new "orders" are proposed, namely, *Palamedeæ* for *Palamedea*, *Chauna*, and *Ischyornis*; *Pterocles* for the *Pteroclidæ*; *Phænicopteri* for *Phænicopterus*; and *Trochilæ* for the humming-birds. As a check-list for exchanges and arranging museums we doubt not the book will be found to be very convenient.

THE WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA.<sup>2</sup>—It is a singular fact that many of our more common and beautiful wild flowers have never been figured, and we are glad that in the present series an attempt is to be made

<sup>1</sup> *Catalogus Avium hucusque Descriptorum*. Auctor ADOLPHUS BOUCARD. Londini. 1876. For sale at 35 Great Russell Street, London, W. C.; and by S. C. Cassino, Salem, Mass.

<sup>2</sup> *The Wild Flowers of America*. Illustrations by ISAAC SPRAGUE. Text by GEORGE L. GOODALE, M. D., Assistant Professor of Vegetable Physiology, and Instructor in Botany in Harvard University. Part I. Boston: H. O. Houghton & Co.; New York: Hurd and Houghton.

to supply the deficiency. The present fasciculus, which forms the first part of a work of which it is intended that two parts shall be issued annually, contains colored plates of *Aquilegia Canadensis* L., *Geranium maculatum* L., *Aster undulatus* L., *Gerardia flava* L., and *Gerardia tenuifolia* Vahl. The artist, Mr. Isaac Sprague, is well known by his excellent outline drawings in Gray's Genera and in the botanical reports of several of the western surveys. The present plates are accurate in drawing and brilliant in color, that of the columbine being especially striking. The two species of *Gerardia* are figured on the same plate, but, although this is perhaps an advantage in a botanical point of view, it must be confessed that the general effect is not pleasing.

Accompanying the plates are twelve pages of text by Prof. G. L. Goodale. The task of describing plants which have a popular interest, as in the case of the species figured in the present fasciculus, is by no means easy or gracious. The writer is too apt to confine himself to vague sentimentalities. This danger Professor Goodale has successfully avoided, and instead of copious extracts from Mrs. Hemans and Wordsworth he has, very much more to the purpose, given quotations from Hermann Müller and Sprengel, writers who, although by no means unfamiliar to those who have taken a botanical course at Cambridge, are probably new to the majority of those who purchase the present work. If Mr. Sprague has made the Wild Flowers of America a work which will be sought by all lovers of the beautiful, Professor Goodale has done no less for those who seek instruction, pleasingly conveyed, with regard to our common native plants. The price, \$5.00 a part, seems rather high, but if, as we learn from the publisher's announcement, the first edition is already nearly exhausted, it cannot be said to be too high.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — Synopsis of American Wasps. By Dr. H. de Saussure. Solitary Wasps. (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. 254.) Washington, D. C. 1875. 8vo, pp. 385.

Studien zur Descendenz-theorie. II. Ueber die letzten Ursachen der Transmutationen. Von Prof. August Weismann. Leipzig. 1876. 8vo, pp. 336. 5 plates.

Seventh Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Indiana, made during the Year 1875. By E. T. Cox, State Geologist, assisted by Prof. John Collett, Prof. W. W. Borden, and Dr. G. M. Leveté. Indianapolis. 1876. 8vo, pp. 601.

Entomologische Nachrichten. Herausgegeben von Dr. S. Katter. Jahrgang I. 1875. II. Heft i., ii. 1876. C. F. Vieweg in Quedlinburg. 8vo.

Recherches sur les Dicéymides, Survivants actuels d'un Embranchement des Mésozoaires. Par Édouard Van Beneden. Bruxelles. 1876. 8vo, pp. 111. 3 plates.

Our Present Knowledge of the Nidification of the American Kinglets. By Ernest Ingersoll. (From the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. Vol. i., No. 4. November, 1876.) 8vo, pp. 80.

Descriptions of some Vertebrate Remains from the Fort Union Beds of Montana. By E. D. Cope. (Extracted from the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, October 31, 1876.)

Increase Allen Lapham. A Memorial. Read before the Wisconsin Natural History Society. By Charles Mann. 8vo, pp. 21.

The Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England. With Descriptions of the